

TWO MEN KNOWN IN MANY LANDS WHO

IN HIGH AND LOW SOCIETY

HAVE SOUGHT VICTIMS IN HONOLULU

Police Record of Billy

Hurt, Alias Allen Is

Now Laid Bare.

WHILE the Advertiser was engaged in breaking up the Punahoa nest of gamblers, it sent to San Francisco and elsewhere for further information about them. The answer has just come to hand, accompanied by a picture of Billy Hurt, alias Allen, one of the most expert swindlers known to the police. Hurt made up his mind to come here when he saw Sam Parker and Prince David cutting swaths in the East. He followed them about and finally landed in Honolulu, where he believed that, by setting up a deadfall at Punahoa, he could make several big killings. He also had a distinguished white capital on his list. Hurt was getting on nicely with his introductory schemes when the Advertiser's bombshell exploded in his card room and away went "Mr. Allen" and his pals to parts unknown.

The first response to the Advertiser's inquiries came from Captain Spillane of the San Francisco police force, and the smile of the letter will be found below.

THE BULLETIN'S COMMENT.

Following is an extract from the San Francisco Bulletin of February 3, 1901: Billy Hurt, king of the "short card" game, monarch of all confidence men and one of the most accomplished all-around swindlers in the world, has turned up at Honolulu after a long period of absence and is apparently again at his old tricks. In Honolulu he posed as "Mr. Allen," a wealthy mining man, but his identity as Billy Hurt has been established.

Hurt has operated at one time or another in nearly every great city in the world. He always went in for big game and his marvelous skill in the crooked game of chance won him many thousands of dollars from the unwary millionaires who crossed his path. Always assuming the character of a respectable and wealthy gentleman, he had little difficulty in gaining access to the exclusive circles where his methods would be the most profitable. He was involved into the most exclusive clubs of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other large cities of this country after his successful career in Europe, and everywhere he succeeded in getting into the inner circle of the most prominent and several members of that organization were fleeced by the accomplished Hurt.

Hurt arose to sudden fame as a promoter of gigantic mining deals. In Colorado he was heralded as the confidential man of the Atlas Exploration Company, one of the greatest financial operations of the world, and for a while he had half the millionaires of Denver swelling with anxiety and courting his favor. Before he shook the dust of the maternal State from his patent leather shoes he had "done things" to the owners of mines and mine owners, and the memory is yet painfully fresh.

Hurt made his appearance in San Francisco and created a nine days' sensation among the local Johnnies with his ease with which he could separate himself from coin and gather in the coin again. His attire was the envy and admiration of the young bloods of the city, and his dinners were feasts fit for kings. Just how much he cleared up during his stay in this city did not transpire, but when he left he did not go empty handed. He is now in Honolulu, according to late advices from the metropolis, he has run up against the methods that bids fair to make his life less profitable than his enterprising and peculiar ability would otherwise insure. Hurt is an artist in the way he handles his cards, and his preparations for an expected harvest in Hawaii were most elaborate. That he did not succeed was due, apparently, to a mistake made at an awkward stage of the game by a victim who could not resist the sheik's which the clever Hurt wrested from him.

When Billy Hurt landed at Honolulu on the steamer Sierra December 29 last he was prepared for a campaign that would win him a great fortune. Thinking that another name would best suit his purpose, he decided to honor with the name of Allen. As "Mr. Allen" he rented a handsome cottage, surrounded by a large grounds on Wilder avenue and engaged a butler. The cottage was used to equip the house in a manner that would make it the home of a wealthy gentleman of domestic habits and artistic tastes. The lady whom "Mr. Allen" engaged as his wife fitted into this environment perfectly and is said to have been very attractive to the gentlemen visiting the cottage.

Hurt was accompanied to Honolulu by a man named Beckley, said to be the owner of a resort known as the Grotto at Punahoa. City, who took up his quarters in the cottage with "Mr. and Mrs. Allen." It is said that Beckley figured in the role of a capper or persuader extraordinary to the organization. That cottage, by the way, was a wonderful thing of its kind. Although apparently a simple, though elegant home, it contained the most elaborate machinery for gambling, including the most

BILLY HURT, ALIAS T. W. ALLEN, CROOK AND CARDSHARP, FLED FROM HONOLULU SECRETLY A FORTNIGHT OR SO AGO, AFTER HIS GAME WAS EXPOSED IN THE ADVERTISER. "COMMODORE" NICHOLAS J. WEAVER, SWINDLER AND PRINCE OF GOOD FELLOWS, PASSED THROUGH HERE YESTERDAY ON THE ALAMEDA AFTER HAVING BEEN KICKED OUT OF SAMOA BY THE AUTHORITIES. HURT'S STARTLING POLICE CAREER IS TOLD ON THIS PAGE. WEAVER'S LATEST PLAN TO GET MONEY DISHONESTLY IS GIVEN AWAY. THE ADVERTISER BELIEVES IT THE PROVINCE AND DUTY OF THE LEADING NEWSPAPER OF HAWAII TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII AGAINST SUCH VERMIN AS HURT AND WEAVER BY GIVING THE PULLEST PUBLICITY TO THEIR SCHEMES AND CHARACTERS. HURT OR ALLEN WAS PREVENTED FROM CHEATING MORE THAN A FEW SMALL FRY POKER PLAYERS IN HONOLULU BY THE ADVERTISER'S EXPOSE. HURT THREATENED A LIBEL SUIT BUT, SEEING THE GAME WAS UP, FLED FROM THE CITY WITH NO WORD OF FAREWELL.

than one person in Honolulu who knew his record as one of the cleverest confidence men in the world. A number of intended dupes are said to have been in this way warned from falling into his trap.

BILLY HURT IN 1893.

A dispatch to the Examiner, dated New York, September 22, 1893, says: Wm.



Swindler Billy Hurt, Alias T. W. Allen.

in the Metropolitan Hotel all one night at McDonnell's solicitation. At its conclusion Hurt says McDonnell owed him \$72, besides owing Fisher and Smith some more, which, he says, has not been paid. Getting down to the time that McDonnell exposed him at the Waldorf, Mr. Steele said:

McDonnell, knowing that I lived at



"Commodore" Nicholas J. Weaver.

Commodore Weaver In

Honolulu, Fired Out

of German Samoa.

ONCE more has the city of Honolulu been compelled to shelter within its portals the notorious "Commodore" Nicholas J. Weaver, of yacht Norna fame. Weaver came here without invitation as a passenger on the Alameda on which he took passage for San Francisco from the scene of his latest operations at Apia.

Once boon companion and partner of T. W. Allen, alias "Billy Hurt," whose criminal career in this city was cut short by the timely exposure in the columns of the Advertiser, the incidents of which are still fresh in the minds of Honolulu residents, it was only fitting that he should have been forced to leave Apia by the German Governor, who had received full information of his crooked ways and criminal operations.

It is not every man, accomplished crook though he may be, that can successfully evade the law time after time and the end of Weaver is not far distant. Of good presence, an accomplished liar, and a thorough man of the world, Weaver had found willing victims for his nefarious schemes, and his last coup if successful would have made him independent for life.

Weaver left San Francisco on the Alameda on January 4 and passed through this city on the 10th inst. en route to Pago Pago, from whence he went to Apia, presumably to complete the payments on certain lands on which he was supposed to hold options, but really to try to make some purchases in realty, in order to make good his representations to various English capitalists who were and remain today his latest victims.

With him on the Alameda on her down trip was a woman who passed herself off as his sister, and who was represented as such by the "Commodore." This woman is now deserted by Weaver and left on board a lumber schooner in the vicinity of Pago Pago. Like the rest of the gullible women who have been ensnared by him, when caught in a tight place she has been left to shift for herself, with her money gone and without friends in a strange country.

As a part of his famous trip around the world in the yacht Norna, Weaver found himself in the vicinity of Apia and anchored his craft in the magnificent harbor for several weeks. While visiting the natives on shore it occurred to his ever-ready mind that here was a chance to lay the foundation for future deals, and losing no time he proceeded to put his newly-laid schemes into operation. A few dollars here, and a few valueless trinkets there, soon gained the good will of the trusting natives, and it required very little finesse on the part of Weaver to get their signatures, or more likely their "marks," to documents which they did not understand but which were virtually options on their lands.

Options of this kind were secured on 6,000 acres of fine agricultural land without the payment of a cent in cash as a partial payment, and for the ridiculously low figure of 25 cents per acre as a final purchase price. But it is here that the native shrewdness of Weaver was exhibited. Many a man, when he found that he could do with the natives as he wished, would have overstepped the mark and made the options run for a term of years, or he might have made the natives, in their simplicity, sign away by absolute deed their holdings; but not so with Weaver—right well he knew that if he did this he would be unable to get the American Consul to pass upon the papers, so he contented himself by making out the options for one year only, and it was through the really worthless documents that he was enabled to fleece London capitalists out of a neat sum of money and securing the expenditure of thousands of dollars in machinery and sailing vessels.

Armed with the options, Weaver went from Australia to England in the steerage of one of the ocean liners and it was not long before he had all London agog over his colossal schemes. His plans were perfect, there was no chance to lose the capital invested, and the returns to be anticipated were enormous. In the language of Colonel Sellers—"There's millions in it." At least that is the representation made to the Londoners.

But English capital is always looking for new fields of investment, and with visions of several thousand acres of cacao fields under cultivation, extensive pine apple canneries, general merchandise stores, lumber yards and a line of sailing vessels from Apia direct

OFFICE CHIEF OF POLICE.

(26-414) SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8, 1901

EDITOR ADVERTISER:—Replying to your favor of January 22, 1901, enclosing article from the Pacific Commercial Advertiser of January 22, 1901, containing an account of the operations in Honolulu of Billy Hurt, alias Allen, confidence man and card sharp:

I have to say that Billy Hurt is notorious throughout this country, and a good portion of Europe. He is a clever swindler, and one of the most accomplished card sharps of the present day. I have carefully read the article printed in the Advertiser, and I do not doubt that "Mr. Allen" of Honolulu is Billy Hurt of anywhere you may chance to find him. The Advertiser has done the people of Honolulu a great service in exposing this man, and I hope you will be able to drive him out of your city without sending him back to us.

I enclose clipping from the S. F. Bulletin of February 3, 1901, which refers to the article in the Advertiser, and incidentally tells something of Hurt's operations in this country.

Yours truly,

JOHN SPILLANE,
Captain of Police.